

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed November 8, 2000, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the following remarks. The rejection has been respectfully traversed. As a result, claims 1-20 are still pending in the application. The Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-20 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Lamp. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. In particular, the Applicant respectfully submits that the references cannot be combined as suggested by the Examiner.

The bulkhead panels of Lewis are specially adapted to be interconnected in different ways to allow for different configurations. In particular, adjacent bulkhead panels of Lewis can be connected such that they are in the same plane or such that they are positioned 90 degrees relative to one another. This aspect of Lewis is discussed in column 5, lines 12 through 21, and it is shown in figures 3 and 7. In order to enable this functionality, the design (i.e., the angles, shapes, etc.) of portions 20, 22, 29, 30, and 32 of Lewis is critical. The modification proposed by the Examiner would drastically alter Lewis, and it would render Lewis unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. The bulkhead panels as modified could not be connected together at 90-degree angles. Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that Lewis in view of Lamp cannot support the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

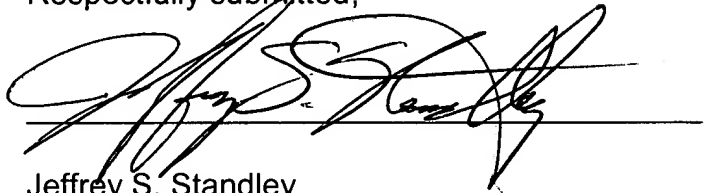
CONCLUSION

The Applicant has distinguished claims 1-20 over the cited references. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly requested.

Date: _____

03/08/01

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey S. Standley', is written over a horizontal line.

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